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CONCEPT PAPER

The National Intelligence Officer for Warning will be the Director's personal representative and will report directly to the DCI.

Any tasking the NIO for Warning levies on elements of the Intelligence Community will be subject to DCI approval and will pass through normal command channels of the NFIB member agencies.

The NIO for Warning is expected to maintain extensive informal contacts with elements of the NFIB agencies and others in the official and private sectors in pursuit of his responsibilities.

The NIO for Warning will assist the Director in:

- indentifying the requirements for warning,
- evaluation of warning products and programs,
- identifying uncertainties requiring guidance on collection, analysis or production.

(See current draft of DCID 1/5 for further details)

The NIO for Warning will be supported by an Assistant NIO for Warning and the National Warning Staff. The A/NIO for Warning serves as the NIO for Warning's alter ego and acts in his behalf when the NIO is absent.

The National Warning Staff performs those functions and tasks assigned by the NIO for Warning in the accomplishment of his responsibilities.

Tasks illustrative of the staff's activities are to monitor warning related events and Community production, prepare papers

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outlining important developments, implications, explanations or hypothesis not fully addressed in Community publications, assist and coordinate NIO Monthly Warning Meetings, coordinate production of Alert Memoranda, review National Estimates for appropriate warning implications, recommend agenda items to the Watch Committee, coordinate and support production of the Community General Indicator List, conduct research on warning matters, support Community training programs, participate in Community post-mortems on crises and warning performance, and support Community developments in warning-related collection, processing and analysis.

The warning staff will devote particular attention to providing a safeguard second look at current developments of potential warning significance. It will provide a balance to current intelligence production by selectively performing the challenge function, primarily by developing alternative interpretations of information and events that address the potential for surprise, especially in matters of greatest consequence for US security interests. The NIO/W and his staff will promote sensitivity to the "lessons" of previous warning episodes, in particular, the crucial importance of making explicit the analytical assumptions that underlie prevailing evaluations and estimates.

It is proposed that the National Warning Staff be composed of three professional intelligence officers on rotational assignment with appropriate clerical support and that the personnel needs be reevaluated periodically.